

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 044599

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QUOTE

SE C R E T LONDON 02806

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, IO

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA

REF: STATE 43462

1. IN ABSENCE OF JACKSON OF FCO, WE SPOKE WITH HIS
DEPUTY, ROBERT CORMACK, ABOUT REFTEL. HE PREDICTS, AND
WE CONCUR, THAT NEW GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ADDRESS
QUESTION OF DIEGO GARCIA FOR TEN DAYS TO TWO WEEKS. HE
ANTICIPATES THAT MINISTERIAL CONSIDERATION PROCEDURE WILL
TAKE ANOTHER WEEK TO TWO WEEKS. THUS, EARLIEST WE MIGHT
EXPECT HMG APPROVAL OF EXPANSION AGREEMENT WOULD BE ABOUT
MARCH 22 WITH DECISION PROBABLY BEFORE THE END OF MARCH.
CORMACK SAID THAT GUESSING IN FCO IS THAT DIEGO AGREEMENT
WILL BE APPROVED WITHOUT FUSS BY NEW GOVERNMENT. THIS
ASSESSMENT SHOULD NOT BE ATTRIBUTED TO BRITISH OFFICIALS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 044599

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON LINE FOR WEISS TESTIMONY,

CORMACK EMPHASIZED THAT FCO COULD NOT GIVE OFFICIAL GUIDANCE TO USG ON THIS POINT BUT, SPEAKING PERSONALLY (AND OBVIOUSLY WITH THE BLESSING OF HIS SUPERIORS) HE FELT THAT SOMETHING LIKE FOLLOWING FORMULATION MIGHT BE BETTER RECEIVED BY NEW GOVERNMENT. BEGIN QUOTE. CLEARLY, IT IS UP TO THE NEW BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO MAKE UP ITS OWN MIND BUT IT IS NOT OBVIOUS THAT BRITISH INTERESTS HAVE CHANGED WITH A CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT. MOREOVER, I RECALL THAT IT WAS A LABOR GOVERNMENT WHICH (A) SET UP THE BIOT IN 1965 (B) CONCLUDED THE ORIGINAL US-UK AGREEMENT THAT MADE THE BIOT AVAILABLE FOR 50 YEARS FOR MUTUAL DEFENSE PURPOSES AND; (C) INFORMALLY APPROVED IN 1968 THE GO AHEAD FOR THE SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY ON DIEGO GARCIA. END QUOTE.

3. CORMACK FELT THAT FIRST SENTENCE IN REFTEL STATEMENT WAS SLIGHTLY TOO STRONG IN IMPLYING THE COMMITMENT OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO PROCEED. HE FELT THAT SECOND U.S. SENTENCE IS NOT CREDIBLE IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE PUBLISHED STATEMENTS OF THE LABOR GOVERNMENT MAKE IT CLEAR THAT ON SOME ISSUES, E.G., UK RELATIONS WITH THE EC, WILL NOT MAINTAIN CONTINUITY IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

ANNENBERG
NQUOTE KISSINGER

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